

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of retrieving a device-dependent attribute stored on a portal server, said method comprising:
 - 5 establishing communication with a device;
 - identifying a type of said device;
 - identifying a characteristic of said type of device, wherein said type is a subset of said characteristic; and
- 10 retrieving an entry from a list of attributes, said entry selected first according to said type of device and second according to said characteristic if said list does not include an entry that corresponds to said type of device.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said communication is wireless.
- 15 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said type of device is identifiable by a brand name and a model number.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said characteristic is identifiable 20 by a type of markup language used by said type of device.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by device type.
- 25 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by device characteristic.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said list of attributes further comprises entries that are independent of device type and device characteristic.

8. A method of storing device-dependent attributes in a portal server,
5 said method comprising:

receiving information that identifies a type of device for which an attribute is to be stored, wherein said attribute is dependent on said type of device;

selecting said attribute according to said type of device;

entering said attribute into a list of attributes, wherein said list is

10 organized into type-specific categories, wherein said attribute is entered into a category specific to said type of device provided said category exists; and

creating a new category for said attribute provided said category specific to said type of device does not already exist.

15 9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising establishing a connection with a first device, wherein said attribute is entered into a type-specific category corresponding to a type of said first device.

10. The method of Claim 8 further comprising:

20 establishing a connection with a first device; and

receiving information from said first device identifying a second device, wherein said attribute is entered into a type-specific category corresponding to a type of said second device.

25 11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said portal server is a wireless portal server operable to communicate wirelessly with client devices.

12. The method of Claim 8 wherein said type of device is identifiable by a brand name and a model number.

13. The method of Claim 8 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by 5 device type.

14. The method of Claim 8 wherein said list of attributes further comprises a category for attributes that are independent of device type.

10 15. A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a portal server system to perform a method comprising:

communicating with a device;

identifying from said communicating a type of device for which a first

15 attribute is to be stored, wherein said first attribute is dependent on said type of device;

associating said type of device with said first attribute when said first attribute is selected and stored in a list of attributes; and

retrieving a second attribute from said list according to said type of device

20 or according to a characteristic of said type of device if said list does not include an attribute that corresponds to said type of device, wherein said type is a subset of said characteristic.

16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein said 25 communicating is wireless.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein said type of device is identifiable by a brand name and a model number.

18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein said 5 characteristic is identifiable by a type of markup language used by said type of device.

19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by device type.

10 20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by device characteristic.

15 21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein said list of attributes further comprises attributes that are independent of device type and device characteristic.

20 22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein said first attribute corresponds to said device communicating with said portal server system.

25 23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15 wherein said first attribute corresponds to another device different from said device communicating with said portal server system, said other device identified during said communicating.